



Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
Child Care Subsidy Monthly Report

March 2026

The following report reflects information contained in the Child Care Data System (CCDS) administered by the DESE Office of Childhood. Unless otherwise noted, data consists of un-duplicated counts of children and families participating in the subsidy program for the identified month.
Database as of April 10, 2026.

SECTION 1: CHILD CARE HOUSEHOLD APPLICATIONS

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

		March	Change From Month Prior		Change From 2 Months Prior	
Submitted		3,128	-18.8%		-27.1%	
Approved		2,826	5.0%		-1.2%	
Rejected		820	-30.4%		-29.5%	
Pending	15 Days or Less	465	Waitlist Priority	Applications On Waitlist	Average Days on Waitlist	Children On Waitlist
			1	118	21	265
			2	103	20	152
	More Than 15 Days	456	3	772	20	1,395
			4	234	20	414
Total Pending		921	Total	1,227	20	2,226

SECTION 2: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN APPROVED FOR SUBSIDY

		March 2026	February 2026	January 2026	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Approved Households	Income	18,597	18,556	17,679	0.2%	5.2%
	Protective Services	4,182	4,013	3,827	4.2%	9.3%
	Total	22,779	22,569	21,506	0.9%	5.9%
Approved Children	Income	29,386	30,094	30,209	-2.4%	-2.7%
	Protective Services	6,941	6,985	7,033	-0.6%	-1.3%
	Total	36,327	37,079	37,242	-2.0%	-2.4%

SECTION 3: CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

Children Served	Income	23,028	22,469	22,434	2.5%	2.6%
	Protective Services	5,069	4,944	4,937	2.5%	2.7%
	Total	28,087	27,398	27,359	2.5%	2.7%
Payments		\$27,069,437	\$27,558,380	\$27,962,514	-1.8%	-3.2%
Average Payment Per Child		\$964	\$1,006	\$1,022	-4.2%	-5.7%

SECTION 4: TRANSITIONAL CHILD CARE SUMMARY

	Level 1 (151-185% FPL)			Level 2 (186-215% FPL)			Level 3 (216-242% FPL)		
	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026
Approved Households	734	663	547	250	213	191	110	102	85
Children Served	1,151	1,145	1,083	368	337	336	148	140	126
Payments	\$954,214.37	\$977,935.27	\$944,841.84	\$309,355.37	\$299,160.84	\$308,434.53	\$114,310.73	\$117,589.75	\$105,258.81
Average Payment per Household	\$1,300	\$1,475	\$1,727	\$1,237	\$1,405	\$1,615	\$1,039	\$1,153	\$1,238
Average Child Expenditure	\$829	\$854	\$872	\$841	\$888	\$918	\$772	\$840	\$835

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SECTION 5: CHILDREN SERVED BY AGE

	Children Served March 2026	Payments March 2026
Under Age 1	1,321	\$2,182,878
AGE 1	3,265	\$5,624,563
AGE 2	4,160	\$4,668,971
AGE 3	4,532	\$4,303,260
AGE 4	4,275	\$3,930,840
AGE 5	3,169	\$2,412,029
AGE 6	1,775	\$981,362
AGE 7	1,446	\$751,459
AGE 8	1,209	\$639,444
AGE 9	1,009	\$527,003
AGE 10	812	\$422,394
AGE 11	582	\$310,239
AGE 12	341	\$195,255
AGE 13	153	\$89,725
Age 14 and Over	38	\$28,859
Total	28,087	\$27,068,282

SECTION 6: APPLICATIONS BY STATUS AND REGION

March 2026

*The status reflects the action that was taken during the month indicated.

	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Applications Rejected	Percent Rejected	Total Resolved	15 Days or Less	More Than 15 Days	Percent Over 15 Da..
Cape Girardeau	143	129	58	21.2%	187	45	40	47.1%
Columbia	95	63	34	21.8%	97	28	31	52.5%
Jefferson City	109	91	42	21.9%	133	32	27	45.8%
Macon	46	23	15	22.1%	38	18	11	37.9%
Not Selected	1,582	1,747	232	11.7%	1,979	15	3	16.7%
Raytown	376	274	140	22.2%	414	97	120	55.3%
Springfield	173	119	66	23.1%	185	47	54	53.5%
St. Louis	604	380	233	24.0%	613	183	170	48.2%
Total	3,128	2,826	820	18.0%	3,646	465	456	49.5%

SECTION 7: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY REGION

March 2026

Region	Education	Employment	Homeless	Incapacitated Parent	Job Search	Protective Services	Special Need	Training	Grand Total
Cape Girardeau	189	1,668	55	12	371	677	21	16	2,665
Columbia	107	885	50	8	227	301	23	20	1,379
Jefferson City	109	989	35	9	245	458	19	13	1,659
Macon	49	387	9	3	85	185	12	1	651
Not Selected	1,165	7,345	284	57	2,009	2,036	130	180	10,231
Raytown	539	2,986	323	28	1,149	856	68	129	5,015
Springfield	236	1,672	71	11	425	705	38	13	2,750
St. Louis	1,022	5,923	492	69	1,874	987	142	146	8,692
Total	2,241	14,440	1,034	142	4,364	4,193	324	338	22,776

SECTION 8: REASON FOR CARE FOR APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

	Households			Children		
	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026
Education	2,241	2,182	2,059	3,722	3,781	3,848
Employment	14,440	14,275	13,544	25,656	26,234	26,336
Homeless	1,034	1,049	1,014	1,351	1,388	1,431
Incapacitated Parent	142	144	134	245	245	243
Job Search	4,364	4,411	4,266	4,649	4,743	4,735
Protective Services	4,193	4,024	3,837	6,964	7,008	7,060
Special Need	324	324	298	514	547	539
Training	338	341	328	588	597	617
Total	22,776	22,566	21,502	36,293	37,036	37,201

SECTION 9: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY RACE

	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026
African American (Black)	17,125	17,479	17,531
American/Alaskan Native	299	303	306
Asian	116	119	120
Caucasian (White)	13,594	13,880	13,900
Multi-Racial	3,941	3,992	4,067
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	47	53	54
Other	530	548	557
Prefer not to answer	676	698	691
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	36,293	37,036	37,201

SECTION 10: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED CHILDREN BY ETHNICITY

	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026
Hispanic	5.8%	5.8%	5.9%
Non-Hispanic	91.1%	91.0%	91.0%
Prefer not to answer	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



SECTION 11: DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPROVED HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME

March 2026

*excludes Protective Services households

Household Size	Approved Households	% of Total Households Last Month along Table (Down)	Average Household Monthly Income
0	0	0.0%	\$2,435
1	232	1.0%	\$54
2	7,188	31.6%	\$1,002
3	7,556	33.2%	\$1,249
4	5,317	23.3%	\$1,402
5	2,986	13.1%	\$1,474
6	1,392	6.1%	\$1,392
7 or More	1,020	4.5%	\$1,285
Total	22,776	100.0%	\$1,127

SECTION 12: CHILDREN SERVED AND AVERAGE PAYMENT PER CHILD BY FACILITY

Provider Type	Provider Facility Type	March 2026			February 2026			January 2026		
		Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen..	Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen.	Children Served	Payments	Average Paymen..
Exempt	Exempt Program	707	\$378,011.83	\$535	696	\$386,681.40	\$556	665	\$327,439.11	\$492
	Six or Fewer	1,157	\$723,365.53	\$625	1,163	\$727,679.45	\$626	1,205	\$776,464.56	\$644
License Exempt	Religious Organization/ Nursery School	1,780	\$1,326,726.87	\$745	1,779	\$1,315,438.70	\$739	1,663	\$1,233,527.38	\$742
Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	23,110	\$23,466,579.95	\$1,015	22,488	\$23,957,170.18	\$1,065	22,506	\$24,388,674.18	\$1,084
	Licensed Family Child Care Home	962	\$819,204.96	\$852	920	\$801,705.07	\$871	972	\$890,024.42	\$916
	Licensed Group Child Care Home	479	\$355,548.05	\$742	488	\$369,705.24	\$758	471	\$345,995.75	\$735
Total		28,087	\$27,069,437.19	\$964	27,398	\$27,558,380.04	\$1,006	27,358	\$27,962,125.40	\$1,022

SECTION 13: PAID AND CONTRACTED PROVIDERS

*Includes contracted providers and providers in the process of renewing their contract.

Contracted Providers	Exempt	Exempt Program	186	185	185
		Six or Fewer	382	380	382
	Licensed	Licensed Child Care Center	1,210	1,211	1,202
		Licensed Family Child Care Home	188	180	181
		Licensed Group Child Care Home	56	56	56
		Licensed Exempt Religious Organization/Nursery School	105	104	102
	Total		2,127	2,116	2,108

SECTION 14: CHILDREN RECEIVING OTHER STATE ASSISTANCE

	March 2026	February 2026	January 2026	Change From Month Prior	Change From 2 Months Prior
Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP)	2,490	2,473	2,450	0.7%	1.6%
Low Income Housing	2,336	2,276	2,319	2.6%	0.7%
Medicaid	17,721	17,274	17,160	2.6%	3.3%
Food Stamps (SNAP)	16,736	16,408	16,442	2.0%	1.8%
Temporary Assistance (TANF)	664	717	727	-7.4%	-8.7%
Total	20,767	20,237	20,208	2.6%	2.8%